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**RE: BREMERTON AUTO WRECKING LANDFILL/ GORST CREEK LANDFILL
FS ID 62752314**

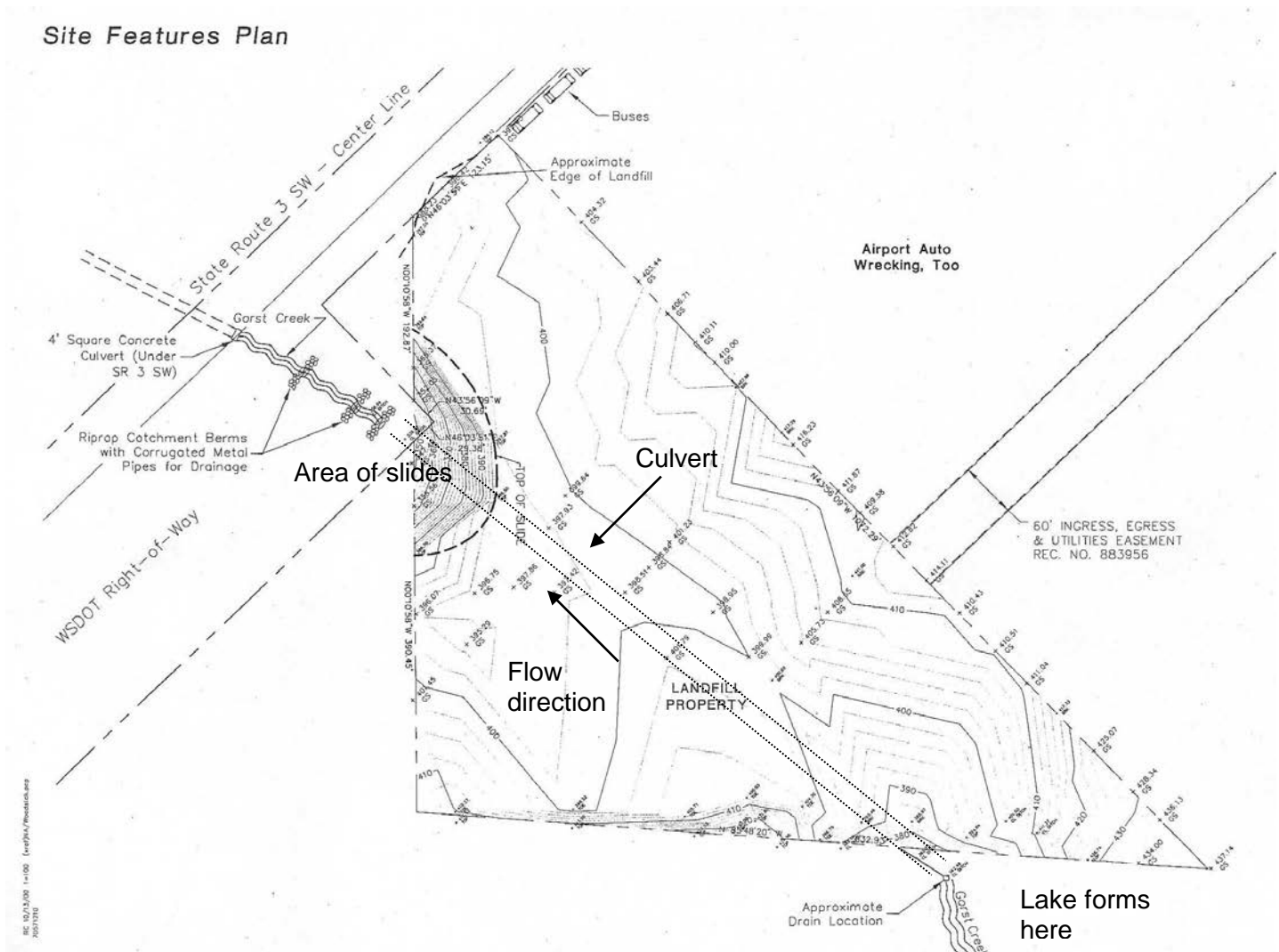
To whom it may concern:

The Kitsap County Health District (Health District) is writing to inform interested parties of its concerns, recent events, short and long-term goals, and some options for cleanup at the Bremerton Auto Wrecking Landfill/Gorst Creek Landfill (landfill).

Overview

The site is a closed and abandoned unlined, mixed municipal solid waste landfill that operated from 1968 to 1989. The landfill was sited in a ravine that Gorst Creek currently flows through. Gorst Creek is a salmon stream and 2.5 miles from the landfill empties into Sinclair Inlet of Puget Sound. During the start of fill operations a culvert was installed and the creek was piped under the landfill. The site received mixed municipal waste from the public and the United

Site Features Plan



States Navy (USN) from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. Estimates from Health District records indicate that the landfill may hold as little as 30,000 and as much as 150,000 cubic yards of waste.

The landfill has undergone several site hazard assessments. Sampling events at various times have found numerous contaminants above regulatory limits. The soil at the landfill is contaminated with lead, arsenic, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The ground water at the landfill is contaminated with PAHs. The sediment in Gorst Creek is contaminated with pesticides, polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs), lead, and mercury.

In 1997, 2002, and 2007 heavy rains and the partially blocked culvert that runs under the landfill caused a lake of water to backup behind the landfill. The water level rose above the level of the landfill and spilled over the top. This caused the face of the landfill to slide into the creek carrying waste and sediments from the landfill into the stream.

Summary of recent slide

On December 3, 2007, the Bremerton, Washington area received 10" + of rain. On December 4, 2007, staff from the Health District inspected the northwest face of the Bremerton Auto Wrecking Landfill/Gorst Creek Landfill. The inspectors found that approximately 50 to 200 cubic yards of waste, debris, and soil had slid off the face and into Gorst Creek. Waste from the landfill was scattered at least ½ mile downstream of the face. A rock weir installed by Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT) in 1997 was washed away. The concrete culvert under State Hwy 3 was partially blocked by debris.

In the past needles and syringes have been found at the site after a spill. This time around no needles have been found, but syringes have been seen in the creek bed.

The Health District was contacted by the DOT after the slide. DOT used an excavator to remove the debris from in front of the road culvert and placed it 20 feet away.

The Health District has been in contact with the City of Bremerton about picking up the waste in the stream below the highway. The City has already cleared the access road that leads down to the stream.

The photos below show the area on December 14, 2007, approximately 10 days after the slide.



The photo above shows part of the slide area on the northwest face of the landfill.



This photo shows the Gorst Creek stream channel from the northwest face to State Hwy 3.



The photo above shows the partial blockage of the concrete culvert under State Highway 3.
This material has since been removed by DOT.



Gorst Creek below (northwest) State Highway 3. Note the debris from the landfill. This is approximately 200 yards below the slid landfill face and 100 yards below State Highway 3.



Gorst Creek below State Highway 3.

Concerns:

- 1) During slide events solid waste, biomedical waste, hazardous waste, and soil from the landfill end up in Gorst Creek. The City of Bremerton Watershed is down stream of the Landfill starting approximately 300 meters from the down slope face of the landfill and ending approximately 2 kilometers away where there are large drinking water wells adjacent to the creek that supply around 10,000 people.
- 2) Gorst Creek is a salmon stream that flows into Sinclair Inlet of Puget Sound approximately 5.6 kilometers from the landfill.
- 3) There is a community based salmon hatchery located on Gorst Creek at Otto Jarstad Park about 4 kilometers from the landfill.
- 4) The City of Bremerton and the Port of Bremerton have undertaken considerable salmon habitat restoration of Gorst Creek and Sinclair Inlet in the last 6 or 7 years. Public funding has been used in these projects.
- 5) State Highway 3 is approximately 85 meters downstream of the landfill. If the culvert under Hwy 3 were blocked by debris, water could wash out the highway. While this is unlikely, it is possible.
- 6) The volume of water that backs up behind the landfill is in the neighborhood of 10 million gallons. Should the culvert under the landfill become permanently blocked a small lake would form behind the landfill. The water would infiltrate into the landfill leaching out all manner of hazardous wastes.
- 7) The landfill is on the Washington State Department of Ecology Hazardous Sites List and is ranked a 1 under the Model Toxics Control Act. This site has also been identified under the Puget Sound Initiative.

Goals

The immediate goals are to:

- a) Stabilize the face of the landfill so that it does not slide into the creek
- b) Clean up the existing waste in the creek.

The long-term goal is to identify parties to lead and/or participate in a MTCA clean up.

Options for Cleanup

- 1) **Request that Ecology assign a site manager and seek a consent decree to move forward.**

This site is ranked a 1 under MTCA and has been identified as part of the Puget Sound Initiative. The lead at Ecology is with the headquarters unit of the Toxics Cleanup Program. The Health District can request that they assign a site manager to the landfill.

The main liable party appears to be the US Navy.

2) The Health District could take the lead for cleanup of the site.

MTCA allows for separate entities (not the owner) to reach settlement with Ecology in cases of substantial public gain. The Health District could pursue such an agreement for this site.

The Health District could then apply for a remedial action grant to stabilize the site. For example: The Port of Bremerton has received approximately \$800, 000 in grants to work on the Norseland landfill from Washington State Department of Ecology and is applying for a further \$338,000 in a remedial action grant.

3) Wait until 2009 for Kitsap County to take over ownership of the property through tax sale.

In 2009 this property will go up for sale by the Kitsap County Treasurer for nonpayment of taxes. If no one buys it at the sale, then the property reverts to Kitsap County ownership. If that happens Kitsap County is immune from any liability under MTCA. (RCW 70.105D.020)

If this happens then KC and/or the Health District may take the lead in cleanup under the Remedial Action Grant program. Financial participation by the Navy should be pursued to offset non-reimbursable costs to the county.